## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBIE-00 SCS-06 JUSE-00 CA-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 L-03 /056 W

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O R 111435Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8146 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, SHUM, PGOV, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: MARCH 10/11

- 1. ALL MEDIA MARCH 11 CARRY EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE THAT ALFREDO ETCHEBERRY HAS BEEN NAMED USG'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE IN CHILE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE. "EL MERCURIO" REPORTS THAT ETCHEBERRY WILL MEET WITH LETTERS ROGATORY JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ MARCH 13. IN "LA TERCERA" INTERVIEW ETCHEBERRY SAYS THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS APPOINTMENT IS THAT THE USG HAS GREAT INTEREST IN PROCEEDING RAPIDLY WITH JUDICAL ACTION ON THE LETTERS ROGATORY.
- 2. JUANA GONZALEZ CONTINUES TIGHT-LIPPED. HOWEVER, REGARDING POSSIBLE REQUESTS FOR TOWNLEY OR FERNANDEZ TO TESTIFY, SHE IS REPORTED AS STATING: "UNTIL THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATING JUDGE ESTABLISHES THE TRUE IDENTITIES (OF WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL) THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO; I CANNOT CALL ALL THE PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES APPEAR IN THE PRESS."
- 3. THE MUCH MORE TALKATIVE LIBEDINSKY (SPECIAL INVESTIGATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUDGE) MET MARCH 10 WITH CIVIL POLICE (INVESTIGACIONES) HEAD BAEZA, AND SAID THAT, SO FAR, NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THE WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL PASSPORTS ARE OR WHO SIGNED THEM. HE ADDED THAT THE PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO BURN RETURNED PASSPORTS EVERY TWO YEARS. LIBEDINSKY SAID THAT HE WILL EXTEND HIS INVESTIGATION TO THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY IN RESPONSE TO AN "UNCONFIRMED REPORT" THAT THE PASSPORTS FOR WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL MAY HAVE BEEN REQUESTED

BY THAT MINISTRY. ASKED BY THE PRESS WHETHER HE HAD ANY PLANS TO REQUEST INFORMATION FROM US COURTS (I.E. REVERSE LETTERS ROGATORY), LIBEDINSKY REPLIED HE HAS NO PRESENT PLANS.

4. THIS MORNING'S PRESS CARRIES A UPI STORY ON THE MONTERO VISIT TO WASHINGTON, NOTING THAT THE USG IS SATISFIED WITH THE COOPERATION CHILE IS PROVIDING. "LA TERCERA" REPORTS THAT MONTERO WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON, WORKING ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE LETELIER INVESTIGATION, UNTIL NEXT WEEK. BOTH "LA TERCERA" AND "EL MERCURIO" CARRY AN AP SUMMARY OF THE WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL OF MARCH 10.

5. THE CHILEAN ARMY IS REPORTED TO BE CARRYING OUT ITS OWN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OF THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF CAPTAIN ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS IN THE CASE. NEITHER HE NOR TOWNLEY HAS YET SURFACED PUBLICLY. LANDAU

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MURDER, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INVESTIGATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 11 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA01705
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D780109-0979 Format: TEL

From: SANTIAGO Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780379/aaaaconf.tel

Line Count: 79 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbc518c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3360801 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: MARCH 10/11 TAGS: OGEN, SHUM, PGOV, CI, (LETELIER, ORLANDO)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cbc518c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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